



Media Center

FACT SHEET

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DRYWOOD TERMITES

- Drywood termites live in dry, sound wood, deriving their moisture requirements from the wood they consume.
- Drywood termites do not need a connection to soil. They construct large, irregular tunnels that run across the wood grain, connected by openings small enough for one termite to pass through.
- Drywood infestations can occur in structural timbers in buildings, pieces of furniture, flooring, doors and doorframes, window trim, wooden picture frames and other isolated pieces of wood.
- There are often multiple Drywood termite colonies in one structure and colonies can contain a few thousand members.
- The definitive sign of Drywood termite feeding is their fecal pellets—hard, elongated-oval pellets with rounded ends and six concave sides—which are ejected from the galleries found within the damaged wood.
- Approximately 400 global species of Drywood termite species are known, but only a few species are important in the United States.
 - *The Powderpost or “furniture” termite*, one of the Drywood species that affect property owners, is smaller in size than other drywood termites, and can be found in Florida, southern Louisiana, Texas, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. Their feeding in furniture or movable wooden objects can reduce wood to a fine powder. They mainly infest furniture or structural timber.

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- ***The Western Drywood termite*** is found in southern California, Arizona, Utah and Florida. This species infests both dead sections of living trees and wooden articles in homes. The swarming period may be midday on warm, sunny days and may occur from September to October. However, in Arizona, swarming may occur at night in July.
- ***The Southeastern Drywood termite*** is found primarily in seven southeastern states: South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. This species swarms at night, peaking between 8-10 p.m., and is attracted to lights. The peak time period for swarming may be late May through mid-June.
- ***The Desert Drywood termite*** occurs mainly in Arizona and California in more arid areas. The swarmers, who are attracted to lights, may swarm at dusk/night after a rain event from May to early September.
- The Termite Institute™, online at www.TermitelInstitute.com, features an interactive map with localized information on termite prevalence by state. Simply click on any state to find out if Drywood termites are active.